

# HILL AFB RETIREE BULLETIN

DECEMBER 2005/JANUARY 2006

75th MSS/CVR (RAO) 5837 D Ave, Bldg 150, Hill AFB, Utah 84056    [retact@hill.af.mil](mailto:retact@hill.af.mil)    (801) 777-5735

## Briefly...

Over age 75 eligible for indefinite ID cards

Dependents or surviving spouses, age 75 and older, are authorized an ID card with an indefinite expiration date. Current ID cards remain valid until the expiration date on the card, but within 90 days of this expiration date, the indefinite ID card can be obtained. To obtain new ID cards, dependents and spouses must have their sponsor with them when applying for the new card or have a valid DD Form 1172, signed by the sponsor. For more information, contact Master Sgt. Robert Roberson at 777-6783 or email [75mss.dpmps@hill.af.mil](mailto:75mss.dpmps@hill.af.mil).

### VA eligibility web site

The Department of Veterans Affairs has launched a new health eligibility Internet website. This site will be the VA's authoritative source for information on veterans' health benefits eligibility, providing easy access to VA's comprehensive health benefits, eligibility and enrollment. The website is located at <http://www.va.gov/healtheligibility>. Questions and concerns should be directed to Lynne Harbin at (404) 235-1318, [lynne.harbin@med.va.gov](mailto:lynne.harbin@med.va.gov), or Floretta Hardmon at (404) 235-1306, [floretta.hardmon@med.va.gov](mailto:floretta.hardmon@med.va.gov).

### DIC payments changes

The law regarding the DIC payments for widows whom have remarried has changed. If widows remarry after their 57<sup>th</sup> birthday, they may once again be entitled to their DIC payment that ceased when they remarried. Eligible widows should complete Application Form 21-686c, which is available at any Veterans Affairs Office.

## Director's Corner...

The Retiree Appreciation Day held in May was the best one yet. Over 350 people attended the outstanding event which featured informative speakers and an afternoon session with booths from organizations on base.

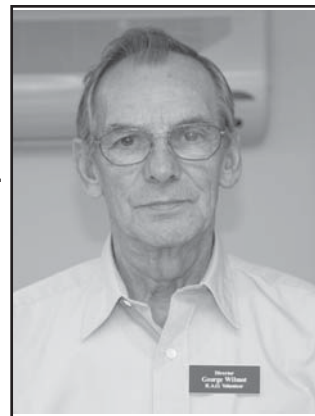
Door prizes were given to a few lucky participants through donations given by the Army and Air Force Exchange Service, the Hill Commissary and American First Credit Union.

The base went all out to make this annual event a resounding success. We hope that more of you will be able to attend in 2006.

I would like to give a big thanks to all the participants and volunteers involved for a job well done.

If you have any questions, suggestions or would like to help with the upcoming Retiree Appreciate Day, please contact the Retiree Activities Office at (801) 777-5735.

**--Chief Master Sgt. (ret) George Wilmot**



Tops in Blue, the Air Force Expeditionary Entertainers, are scheduled to make a stop in Utah, Jan. 24 at the Dee Events Center in Ogden.

The troupe will present "...And the Beat Goes On!" The fun-filled, high energy, family-oriented show features talented Airmen from various career fields and job specialties across the Air Force.

This is a non-ticket event and seating will on a first-come-first-serve basis at the Dee Events Center. The show will begin at 7 p.m. and doors will open at 6:15 p.m.



Photo by Beth Young

The 2004 TOPS IN BLUE troupe performed at the Dee Events Center in January 2004. This year's "The Beat Goes On," promises to be just as exciting.

# FYI

Online newsletter

The Hill AFB Retiree Newsletter is now available online by accessing the Hill AFB Web page at <http://www.hill.af.mil/mailn/library/services/retiree>. If you do not have access to the Internet, send a self-addressed stamped envelope to: 75 MSS/CVR, 5837 D Ave, Hill AFB, UT 84056-5016 and we'll ensure you continue to receive the newsletter through the mail.

## Retiree night at Club Hill

The Retiree Activities Office wants your input on your interest in a retiree night at Club Hill. The evening will have a special menu for retirees. If you can and will support a Saturday evening event once a month at the club, contact the RAO at (801) 777-5735, or via email at [retact@hill.af.mil](mailto:retact@hill.af.mil).

## AAFES new hours

The AAFES Service Mini Mall is now open 24 hours a day, seven days a week. The Main Exchange continues its hours of 8 a.m.-10 p.m. Monday-Saturday and 9 a.m.-7 p.m. on Sundays. The exchange will be open from 8 a.m.-7 p.m. on Dec. 24, and closed Dec. 25

## USAF SERVICES

Combat Support & Community Service

Administration	777-4134
Aquatics	777-3471
Arts and Crafts	586-0566
Auto Hobby Shop	777-3476
Base Restaurants	777-2043
Bowling Center	777-6565
Club Hill	777-3841
FAMCAMP	777-3250
Golf Course	777-3272
Fitness Center	777-2761
Honor Guard	777-3967
Human Resources	777-2771
ITT /Party Store	777-3525
Library	777-2533
Lodging	777-0801
Military Dining	777-3428
MoBQ's Smokehouse	777-5000
Outdoor Recreation	777-2225
Rod and Gun	777-6767
Veterinarian	777-2611

\*\*All telephone numbers have an 801 area code. For numbers not shown, contact the Hill AFB operator at (801) 777-1110.

# Medically Speaking

New Friday hours at clinic

The Hill AFB Clinic to include the pharmacy has new Friday hours. Both will be open from 9 a.m.-5 p.m.

## Flu Shots

The 75th Medical Group expects to receive their full compliment of flu vaccine by mid November. Their target population falls into three priorities of patients: active duty members assigned to Hill, high risk TRICARE Prime beneficiaries enrolled with the group and all other beneficiaries. The group's goal is to dispense the vaccine to active duty and high risk patients in the first month of vaccine receipt. Remaining vaccine should be available to all other military beneficiaries towards the later part of December 2005. Call the groups Immunizations Section at (801) 777-5209 for more information.

## TRICARE Standard non-availability

TRICARE Standard beneficiaries who live within a 40-mile radius of a military medical treatment facility will no longer be required to obtain a non-availability statement or preauthorization from a MTF before receiving inpatient care, other than mental health services) or maternity care from a civilian provider. The rule exempting these beneficiaries was published in the Federal register April 12. The Defense Department however is still authorized to make exceptions under certain conditions.

## New screening process impacts retirees

A medical screening process will be implemented in the near future that may impact some retirees or their family members electing to enroll in TRICARE Prime. The screening will allow our clinical staff to determine if new enrollees would be better served to enroll with a network internal medicine provider rather than a 75th Medical Group provider. Currently the group doesn't have internal medicine capabilities.

## New medications available

The 75th Medical Group has made many formulary additions during the past year to their pharmacy stockpile. Some newly available medications include Allegra, Flomax, Lamisil, Levitra, the Ortho Evra patch, Prilosec, Vigamox eye drops and Zyrtec. A list of medications carried by the pharmacy can be reviewed on their Web site, <http://www.75mdg.hill.af.mil>.

## TRICARE Service Center availability

The TRICARE Service Center maintains a staff to assist beneficiaries with claims issues. The center is located on the second floor of the Hill Clinic and is open Monday-Friday from 7:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m., except holidays. Beneficiaries may also call the Tri West toll free number for assistance, 1-888-847-9378.

## DISCLAIMER

This funded Air Force retiree newsletter is an authorized publication for retired members of the U.S. military services. Contents of the "Hill AFB Retiree Bulletin" are not necessarily the official views of or endorsed by the U.S. Government, the Department of Defense or the U.S. Air Force. Editorial content is edited, prepared and provided by the Hill AFB Retiree Activities Office and the 75th Air Base Wing Public Affairs Office. All photographs are Air Force photos unless otherwise noted.

# VA outlines burial benefits

Veterans discharged under conditions other than dishonorable are entitled to Department of Veterans Affairs burial benefits.

A spouse or un-remarried widow or widower and certain other family members are also entitled to certain benefits.

Reservists and National Guardsmen must have 20 years creditable service for retired pay or have died while on active duty to qualify for burial benefits. These benefits include:

- A gravesite in any VA national cemetery with available space (also many state cemeteries)
- The opening and closing of the grave
- A headstone or marker
- A burial flag
- A grave liner
- A Presidential Memorial Certificate
- A \$1,500 burial allowance if the veteran's death was service connected or \$300 for disabled veterans who are receiving VA compensation at the time of their death.

For more information, contact the department's National Cemetery Administration at 1-800-227-1000 or via the World Wide Web at <http://www.cem.va.gov>.

## Center makes records available online

The National Personnel Records Center is working to make it easier for veterans with computers and Internet access to obtain copies of documents from their military files.

Veterans can visit <http://vetrecs.archives.gov> to obtain copies of their records to include Department of Defense Form 214.

Military veterans and next-of-kin of deceased former military members may use the military personnel records system to request documents. Other individuals with a need for documents must still complete the Standard Form 180, which can be downloaded from the Web site.

The screenshot shows a web browser window titled "NARA - Veterans - eVetRecs: Request Copies of Veterans Military Personnel Records - Microsoft Internet Explorer". The address bar shows <http://www.archives.gov/veterans/evetrecs/index.html>. The page features a header with navigation links: "Archives.gov Home", "Subject Index", "Contact Us", and "FAQs". Below the header is a banner image with the text "Veterans and Their Families". The main content area is titled "eVetRecs: Request Copies of Military Personnel Records" and includes a welcome message and instructions on how to use the system. A sidebar on the left lists various services and records available, such as "eVetRecs Help and FAQs", "About Military Service Records and Official Military Personnel Files (OMPFs)", "Request Military Service Records or Proof of Service (DD Form 214)", "Location of Service Records", "Medical & Health Records", "Correcting Service Records or Discharge Status", "Benefits & Claims", "Medals & Awards", "Veterans & Families", "Military Service Records", "For Veterans", "For Families", and "Historical Documents". A sidebar on the right provides additional resources, including "Launch eVetRecs -- Request Military Records", "eVetRecs Help and FAQs", "False Rumor Regarding Destruction of Veterans Records", "Important Steps to Request Service Records", "Required Information", "Recommended Information", "Emergency Requests and Deadlines", "Where to Send my request", "Cost (free for most veterans)", and "Response Time".

The web-based application was designed to provide better service on these requests by eliminating the records center's mail-room processing time.

Also, because the requester will be asked to supply all information essential for the NPRC to process a request, delays that normally occur when NPRC has to ask veterans for additional information will be minimized.



# Commissary News

The Hill AFB Commissary has several new initiatives for its customers. These new services and features will allow for a more pleasant and gratifying shopping experience.

Shopping lists, maps, directories and newsletters are now located in the front of the store as you enter. A new product case will also be placed in the front entrance area. This case will feature new items that have been added to the store's inventory in that month.

A new sign will also show the savings shoppers receive by shopping at the commissary. The sign will show savings from grocery, produce and meat purchases. The commissary managers go to local supermarkets and compare prices. The Defense Commissary Agency computes a savings of approximately 30 percent across the board, but each store may have even higher savings in their local areas.

The new parking lot at the commissary is finished allowing for an easier flow of traffic around the store. The 75th Civil Engineer Group was instrumental in completing the project that repaved the entire lot and included the installation of two new lights. The managers are currently looking to marking the aisles of the parking lot to help patrons remember where they parked.

The store's Deli and Bakery section rolled out a new sandwich program in November. Patrons can now build their own sandwiches. They can pick the bread, meat and toppings in an assembly line similar to that of commercial sandwich making restaurants. Ready-made sandwiches and salads are also available in the "Grab n' Go" case across from the sushi bar. The bakery is also selling ice cream cakes by request.

The commissary can also help its patrons with their party needs. They can produce meat and cheese trays, sushi party trays, produce for fruit baskets, bakery trays and cakes and plants.

Questions about the commissary can be directed to Karen Ochsner at (801) 586-4861 or karen.ochsner@deca.mil or Donna Walls, (801) 586-4873 or donna.walls@deca.mil.



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## ID card by mail procedures

Though retirees and authorized dependents are required to request identification cards in person at a military installation, there are exceptions to this rule when ID cards can be issued by mail.

The following procedures were established for military ID card holders who cannot physically request a card because they:

- Live an extended distance from a military facility

- Are physically unable to travel
- Have no means of transportation
- Are hospitalized or ill

Individuals who qualify for by-mail replacement can contact the Hill Military Personnel Flight Customer Service either in writing or by phone. The MPF will mail the requester a package with the appropriate paperwork and instructions. The requester will be required to return the paperwork, along with a photo,

to the MPF for action.

ID card requests should be sent with a return address to 75 MSS/DPMPs, 7285 4th St, Room 109, Hill AFB, UT 84056. Requests can also be made by calling customer service at 801-586-5437.

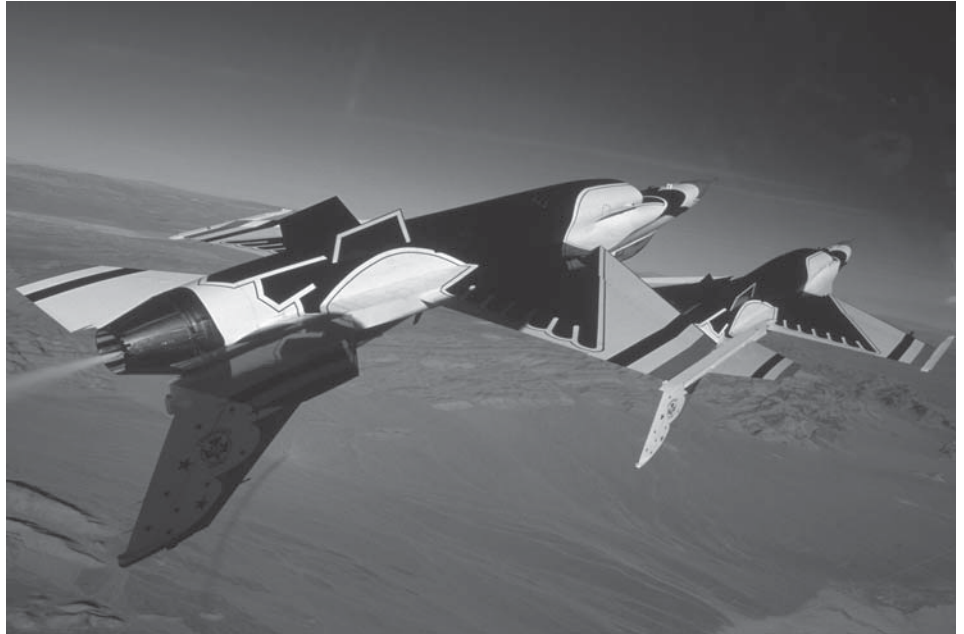
The MPF ID Card Section has walk-in hours in Bldg. 180 on Mondays-Thursdays at 8:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m. and Fridays at 11:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m.

# Hill to hold Air Show in 2006

HILL AIR FORCE BASE, Utah- The Thunderbirds -- the Air Force's aerial demonstration team -- announced their 2006 air show schedule Dec. 2, and the team will appear here June 10 and 11 for Hill's 2006 Air Show.

The 2006 Air Show will be the second two-day air show held at Hill. The first two-day show, held in June 2004, attracted nearly a quarter million people.

As in 2004, there will be military and civilian aerial performances from 11 a.m. through 3:30 p.m. A variety of vintage and modern aircraft will also be on static display, some open to the public.



Courtesy Photo

The Thunderbirds is an Air Combat Command unit composed of eight pilots -- including six demonstration pilots -- four support officers, four civilians and about 110 enlisted Airmen performing in more than 29 Air Force specialties.

A Thunderbirds air demonstration is a mix of formation flying and solo routines. The four-aircraft diamond formation demonstrates the training and precision of Air Force pilots, while the solo aircraft highlight the maximum capabilities of the F-16.

The pilots perform approximately 30 maneuvers in a demonstration. The entire show, including ground and air, runs about an hour and fifteen minutes.

Officers serve a two-year assignment with the squadron, while enlisted personnel serve three to four. Replacements must be trained for about half of the team each year, providing a constant mix of experience.

The squadron performs no more than 88 air demonstrations each year and has never canceled a demonstration due to maintenance difficulty. More than 280 million people in all 50 states and 57 foreign countries have seen the red, white and blue jets in more than 3,500 aerial demonstrations.

In addition to their responsibilities as the official U.S. Air Force aerial demonstration team, the Thunderbirds are part of the Air Force's combat force. If required, the team's personnel and aircraft can be rapidly integrated into a fighter unit at Nellis AFB, Nev. Since the aircraft are only slightly modified, they can be made combat-ready in less than 72 hours.

The team's air show season lasts from March to November with the winter months used to train new members.

Updates about the Hill AFB 2006 Air Show can be found on the base's homepage: <http://www.hill.af.mil>. Background information on the Thunderbirds is available on the Internet at: <http://www.airforce.com/thunderbirds>.

## What is the RAO?

The Hill Retiree Activity Office serves retirees from all branches of the military in an area of responsibility that includes Utah, western Idaho and southwest Wyoming. The region is represented at the annual Air Force Retiree Council meeting once a year.

Hill's RAO director is Chief Master Sgt. (ret) George H. Wilmot. He was appointed by and works directly for the 75th Air Base Wing commander, Col. Sharon K. G. Dunbar. The RAO coordinator is Col. John Clark, Jr., vice commander. The RAO is established in accordance with Air Force Instruction 36-3106, Retire Program.

The Hill AFB Retiree Activity Office is located in Bldg. 150, the new Family Support Center. The office is open daily, Monday-Friday from 9 a.m.-3 p.m. and is closed on federal holidays. It is manned by retiree and spouse volunteers. It supports retirees and annuitants, answering their questions or directing them to the proper office to assist them. Most queries come via telephone; however letters, E-mail and walking into the office are other ways to have questions answered. The office is able to assist in such areas as health care, replacing a lost identification card, Survivor's Benefit Plan benefits, burial benefits, pay increases, community and BX issues and finding and filling out Department of Defense Form 214.

A satellite RAO is located at the Hill Clinic and has directors and volunteers assigned to various duty stations such as the pharmacy, records and the laboratory. Some of these volunteers along with others from the RAO also belong to the Retired Senior Volunteer Program of Weber County in Ogden. These individuals are honored with pins and certificates for their years of volunteer service.

Those interested in becoming a volunteer through the RAO, have questions about retiree activities at Hill AFB or have other questions should contact the office at (801) 777-5735, via E-mail at [retact@hill.af.mil](mailto:retact@hill.af.mil), or via mail at 75 MSS/CVR, 5837 D Ave, Hill AFB, UT 84056-5016

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